

referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PERMISSION TO REDUCE TIME FOR ELECTRONIC VOTING DURING CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5576, TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE JUDICIARY, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during consideration of H.R. 5576 pursuant to House Resolution 865, the Chair may reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for electronic voting under clause 6 of rule XVIII and clause 9 of rule XX.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5576, TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE JUDICIARY, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 865 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 865

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5576) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived except as follows: beginning with "to" on page 5, line 23 through the comma on line 24; beginning with the colon on page 6, line 22 through "year" on line 26; beginning with "for" on page 13, line 1 through "Code" on line 6; beginning with the colon on page 13, line 17 through "expended" on line 25; and sections 120, 127, 129, 206, 530, 707, and 931. Where points of order are waived against part of a paragraph, points of order against language in another part of such paragraph may be made only against such other part and not against the entire paragraph. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment

has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. When the committee rises and reports the bill back to the House with a recommendation that the bill do pass, the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the rule provides 1 hour of general debate evenly divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. It also provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

I would like to take a moment to reiterate that we bring this rule forward under an open rule. Historically, appropriations legislation has come to the House governed by open rules, and we continue to do so in order to allow each and every Member of the House the opportunity to submit amendments for consideration as long as they comply with the rules of the House.

The legislation that we bring to the floor today appropriates over \$67 billion for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and independent agencies, an increase of 6 percent over last year. And yet the bill is fiscally sound. It also represents our commitment to provide the necessary resources for programs and projects across the Nation ranging from transportation to housing, the judiciary, the executive office of the President, and the District of Columbia.

The Nation's transportation infrastructure is the backbone of the economy. Its continued strength is essential to foster economic growth, and the bill that we bring to the floor today ensures that we have a reliable and stable transportation infrastructure, that we continue to do so, so that the economy can continue to grow.

The bill includes \$39.1 billion in funds for our highway system, representing an increase of \$3.5 billion. Included in the bill is \$900 million for Amtrak. It includes significant financial and management reforms. In addition, the DOT Inspector General is required to report back regularly to Congress on Amtrak's progress on financial reforms.

The bill that we bring to the floor also includes over \$15 billion for the

Federal Aviation Administration, an increase of \$1.4 billion. Included in that amount is \$16 million to hire and train 132 new air traffic controllers. That is vitally important as air traffic controllers begin to retire and yet air traffic continues to grow. This is essential, for example, in my district, which is the home of Miami National Airport, the third largest international airport in the country. Without an increase in the number of air traffic controllers, Miami International would not be able to continue its projected growth and continue to serve as the Hub of the Americas.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is funded at \$35 billion, an increase of \$1.7 billion. These funds will permit the Department to administer programs and assist the public with their housing needs, economic and community development and fair housing opportunities. Under HUD the bill includes funding for such important programs as Tenant Based Rental Assistance, also known as section 8, and project-based rental assistance. These two programs serve almost 3.5 million households with vouchers and project-based housing. The bill includes over \$21 billion in funds for the program, an increase of over \$800 million.

H.R. 5576 provides \$6.1 billion for the Federal Judiciary, an increase, Mr. Speaker, of almost 6 percent. This funding will enable the courts to effectively process priority criminal, civil, and bankruptcy cases.

This legislation was introduced by Chairman JOE KNOLLENBERG and reported out of the Appropriations Committee on June 6 by a voice vote. It is good legislation, essential to our continued commitment to the security and safety of all citizens and residents of the United States; and we bring it forth, as I stated before, under a fair and open rule.

I would like to thank Chairman KNOLLENBERG and Ranking Member OLVER for their leadership on this important issue. I urge my colleagues to support both the rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida, my good friend, Representative DIAZ-BALART, for yielding me time. And I rise today in opposition to this rule and with great concern and reservation about the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2007.

While the underlying legislation is a significant improvement over President Bush's proposed budget, I am deeply troubled that Republicans continue to use their inability to manage the fiscal needs of our country as a convenient scapegoat for underfunding or completely eliminating programs of